



# Minnesota Internship Center

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2507 Fremont Avenue North

Minneapolis, MN 55411

Tuesday, March 13th, 2023

Dear Minnesota Legislators,

We are writing to you as the leaders of Minnesota Internship Center Charter School (MNIC), a public charter high school that serves students who have faced barriers to educational success. We strongly urge you to support House File 345, which would establish a pilot program to improve educational outcomes and accountability.

MNIC serves 500+ learners annually at three High Schools in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Many of our students have struggled in larger, traditional public school settings and face educational barriers such as homelessness, poverty, trauma, addiction, community violence, and interrupted education. Our school provides these young people with high-quality educational and post-secondary preparation experiences that are tailored to their needs and goals.

We believe that schools should be evaluated based on multiple measures of student success, not just standardized test scores and traditional graduation rates. We also believe that schools, and those who hold schools accountable, should engage with students, families, educators, and communities in setting goals and implementing improvement strategies.

House File 345 would create an opportunity for Pillsbury United Communities Office of Public Charter Schools to develop an equity-focused framework that would reflect these principles. The framework would allow participating high schools, including MNIC, to measure success and be held accountable based on locally determined goals that reflect a whole-student approach to education.

Our students have testified in support of this bill because they know how important it is for their voices and experiences to be heard and valued. They want their school to be recognized for the progress they are making every day, not just by test scores or traditional metrics.

We urge you to vote in favor of House File 345, which lays the groundwork for a new and innovative approach to accountability in public education. Thank you for your consideration and please reach out if we can be helpful.

Sincerely,

Reginal Womack, Executive Director

Joe Billings, Director of Operations

Tracy Eberlein, Principal

Jamie Woods, Connections Director